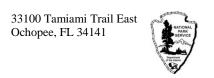
Big Cypress National Preserve



05/18/2011 Jarhead Fire Update

Florida

Incident Commander: John Nobles, Big Cypress Fire Management Officer

Public Affairs Officer/Landowner Contact: Bob DeGross, 239-695-1107, 239-293-3643 (cell)

Jarhead Fire Information: 239-695-1107

Fire Facts:

Location: Center of Big Cypress National Preserve

Size: approximately 38.130 acres

Percent Contained: 95% Cause: lightning

Number of Personnel: 43

Date started: 04/26/2011

Estimated Containment Date: 5/23/2011

Injuries to Date: two (minor)
Aircraft: 1 Heavy (Type 1) and

1 Light (Type 3) helicopters

Equipment: 1 engine, 1 fire swamp buggy

General Information/Announcements:

The National Park Service has established incident priorities that include firefighter and public safety, protecting private property, threatened and endangered species and their habitat, and natural and cultural resources.

Unless a significant activity occurs on the Jarhead Fire, this will be the last update.

Current Activity:

Crews will continue to patrol, monitor, and mop up on the entire Jarhead Fire perimeter as needed. As dry, windy conditions persist over the fire area, crews remain vigilant in ensuring that the fireline is secure.

The estimated containment date has been moved to Monday, May 23, 2011. This is to ensure that the firelines remain secure with the current weather forecast calling for dry, windy conditions through the upcoming weekend.

Closures/Advisories:

Due to fire suppression activities relating to the Jarhead Fire, the Preserve is closed west of Oasis Visitor Center to Turner River Road, south of I-75 and north of U.S. 41. This closure includes the Florida National Scenic Trail within the area and the Oasis ORV access.

The areas identified within the "Jarhead Fire closure area" will be included in the annual 60-day recreational Off-Road Vehicle closure the National Park Service is implementing from 12:01 a.m., Monday, May 23, 2011 through 11:59 p.m., Thursday, July 21, 2011. Recreational access will resume on Friday, July 22, 2011. This closure relates to those areas of the Preserve that allow for ATV, swamp buggies and street legal 4x4s.

The closure remains in place to those permitted ORV visitors seeking recreational access.

Landowners, and their guests, that hold special use permits to access private properties within the Preserve will retain continued access to property along approved routes.

Public Safety Message:

Please be aware of and observe area closures in effect due to aerial and firefighting operations. Drivers on U.S. 41 and I-75 should exercise extreme caution due to smoke and fire vehicle traffic.

Partners/Cooperators

U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Florida Panther National Wildlife Refuge, Everglades National Park, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seminole Tribe of Florida, Ochopee Fire District, Everglades City Fire District, Florida Division of Forestry, Florida Fish and Wildlife Conservation Commission, Florida Dept. of Environmental Protection, Collier County Sheriff's Department, Collier County Emergency Operations Center, Collier County Health Department.

For More Information

http://www.nps.gov/naturescience/2011-jarhead-fire.htm http://www.nps.gov/fire/, http://www.inciweb.org